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(71) Applicant(s)
Illuma Lighting Ltd
(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)
24-32 Riverside Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2YF,
United Kingdom

(72) Inventor(s)
Dan Warman

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
Saunders & Dolleymore
9 Rickmansworth Road, WATFORD, Herts, WD18 0JU,
United Kingdom

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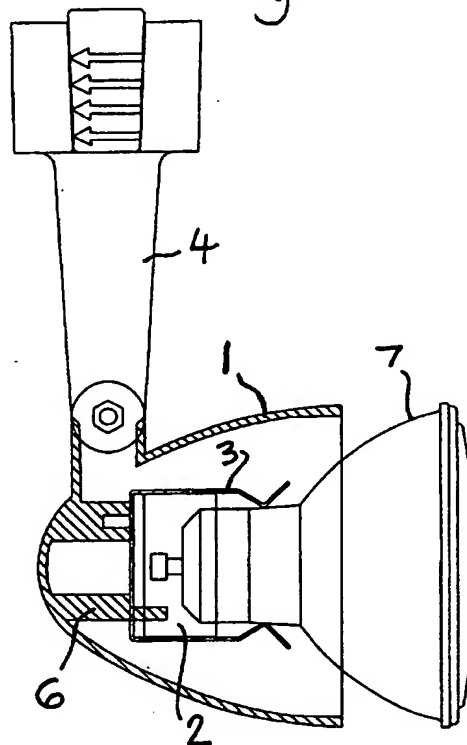
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(56) Documents Cited
GB 2153986 A EP 0147934 A EP 0071157 A
US 4704668 A US 4387417 A

(58) Field of Search
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(54) Abstract Title
Light fitting with spring clip to support lamp

(57) A light fitting comprises a lamp housing (1), a lampholder (2) mounted in the lamp housing and adapted to receive and support a lamp (7) and a spring clip (3) mounted on the lamp housing and adapted to bear on the lamp to assist in supporting it.



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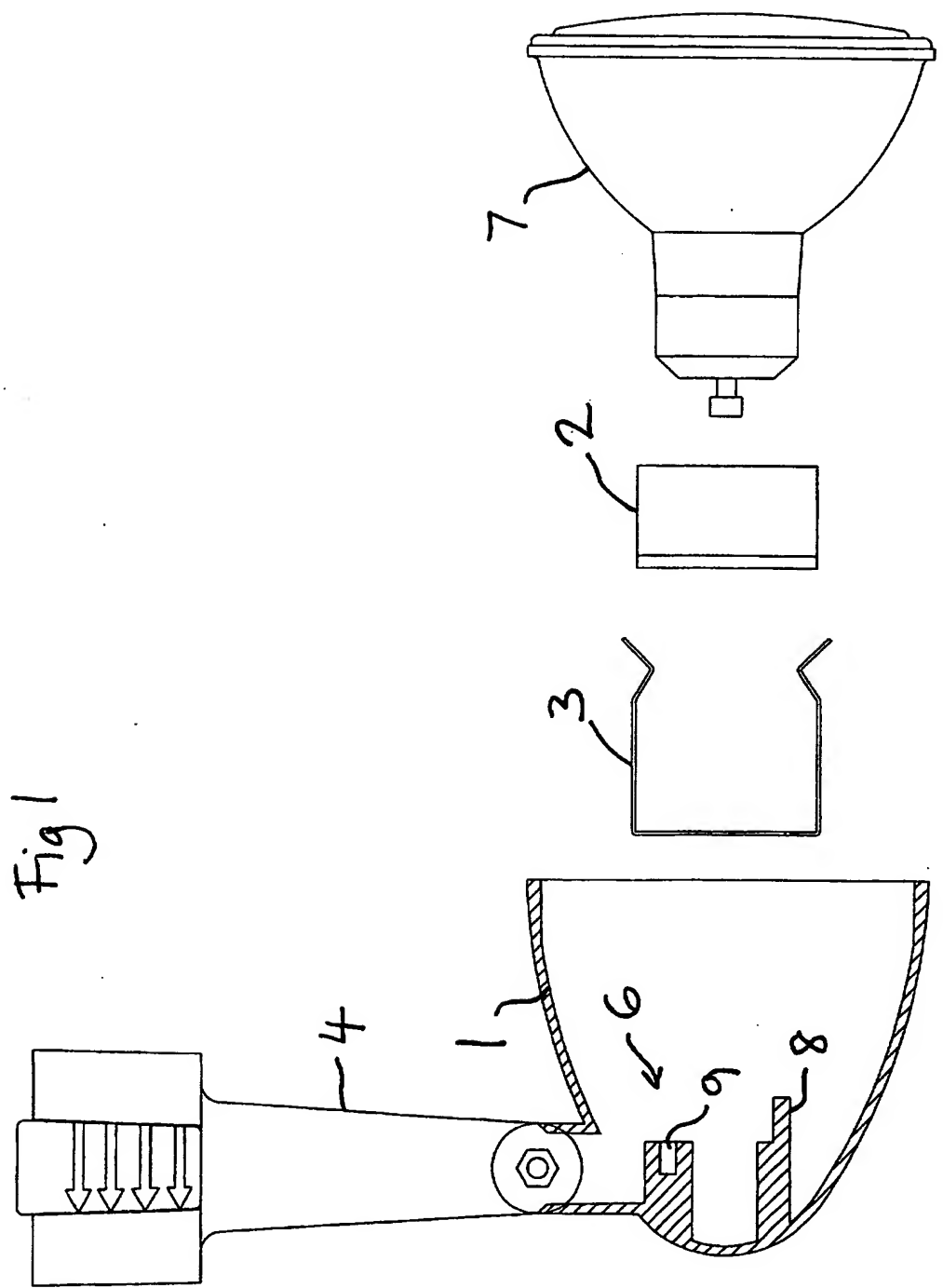
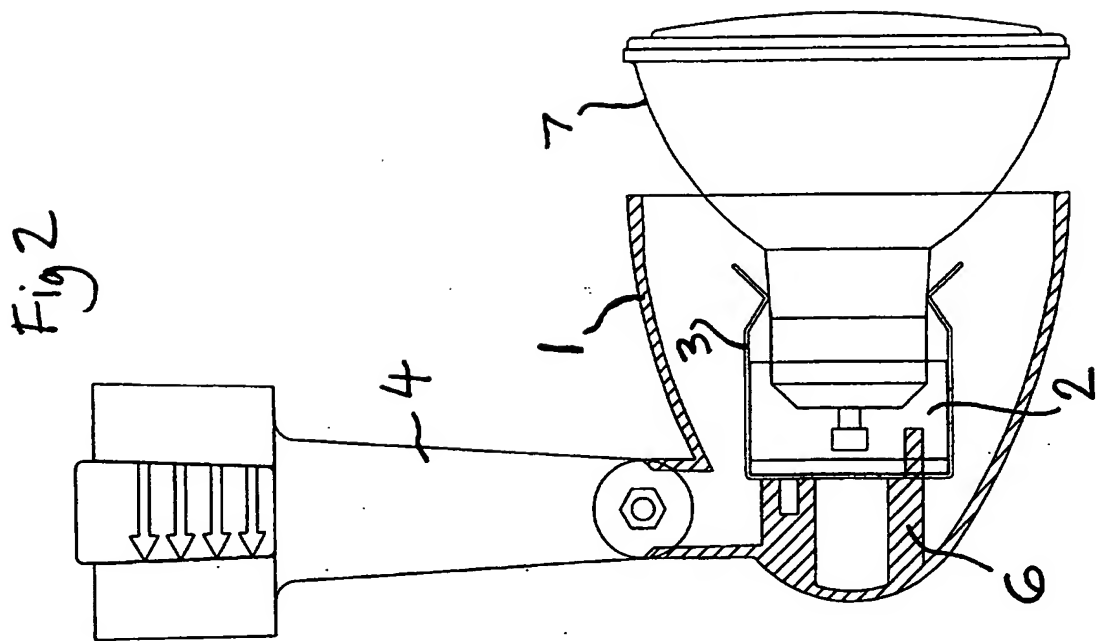
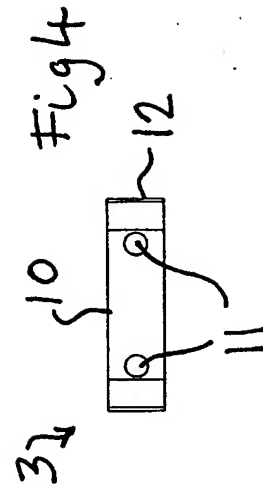
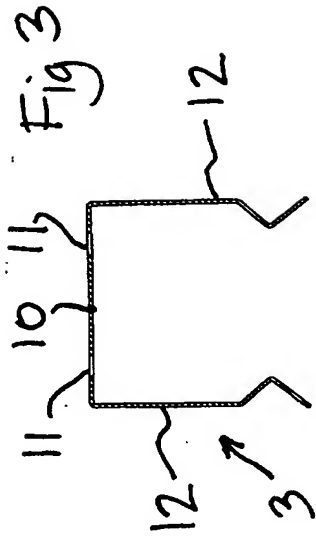


Fig 1



LIGHT FITTING

The invention relates to light fittings of the kind in which a lampholder adapted to receive and support a high voltage (eg 240 V) lamp is mounted in a lamp housing. In
5 known light fittings of this type, the lamp is supported on the lamp housing purely through its mechanical engagement with the lampholder.

In certain cases, however, and particularly in the case of twist-and-lock lamps, the mechanical engagement with the lampholder is not sufficiently tight to prevent the lamp
10 drooping under its own weight from the desired position in which the lamp is perfectly centred in the lamp housing.

The invention attempts to alleviate or overcome this problem by providing an additional support to assist in supporting the lamp.

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Accordingly, the invention provides a light fitting comprising: a lamp housing; a lampholder mounted in the lamp housing and adapted to receive and support a lamp; and a spring clip mounted on the lamp housing and adapted to bear on a lamp received in the lampholder to assist in supporting the lamp.

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Embodiments of the invention are described below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is an exploded side view, partially in section, of the components of a light

fitting;

Figure 2 is a side view, partially in section, of the assembled light fitting;

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view through a spring clip; and

Figure 4 is an end view of the spring clip.

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The components of the light fitting, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, are a lamp housing 1, a lamp holder 2 and a spring clip 3.

The lamp housing, as shown, is of the type which is pivotally mounted on a stem 4
10 for connection to a power track (not shown) in known manner. The lamp housing is formed integrally with a formation 6 adapted to receive and support a standard lampholder 2. In this case, the lampholder is of the type (industry standard GU10) which receives and supports a twist-and-lock lamp 7 (industry standard PAR 16). The formation 6 includes a pin 8 and a recess 9 which are spaced apart by a distance corresponding to the spacing
15 between two through-holes formed in the lampholder. In assembly, the pin 8 locates in one of the holes in the lampholder whilst a screw (not shown) passes through the other hole in the lampholder and taps into the recess 9. This arrangement is well known.

The improvement provided by the present invention is in the spring clip 3 which is
20 mounted between the lamp housing 1 and the lampholder 2.

The spring clip 3 is generally U-shaped and is formed from a single strip of spring steel to comprise a base 10 which is mounted to the lamp housing by means of the pin 8 and

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the screw (not shown) which pass through two holes 11 in the base 10. A pair of resilient arms 12 extend away from opposite ends of the base and are kinked towards their free ends so as to engage the lamp 7 and to assist in supporting it.

CLAIMS

1. A light fitting, comprising:
 - a lamp housing;
 - 5 a lampholder mounted in the lamp housing and adapted to receive and support a lamp; and
 - a spring clip mounted on the lamp housing and adapted to bear on a lamp received in the lampholder to assist in supporting the lamp.
- 10 2. A light fitting according to Claim 1, wherein the spring clip is mounted between the lamp housing and the lampholder.
3. A light fitting according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the spring clip is generally U-shaped and is formed from a single strip of spring steel to comprise a base mounted to
15 the lamp housing and a pair of resilient arms extending from opposite ends of the base and adapted to engage the lamp towards their free ends.
4. A light fitting according to any preceding claim, wherein the lampholder is a twist-and-lock lampholder.
- 20 5. A light fitting substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0008036.6
Claims searched: 1-5

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Examiner: Colin Clarke
Date of search: 12 September 2000

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.R): F4R (RFP)

Int CI (Ed.7): F21V 19/00

Other: ONLINE: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

| Category | Identity of document and relevant passage | Relevant to claims |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| X | GB 2153986 A THORN EMI | 1 & 2 |
| X | EP 0147934 A LUCAS | 1 & 2 at least |
| X | EP 0071157 A VOSSLOH WERKE see fig 42 | 1-3 at least |
| X | US 4704668 KOSEK see column 2 lines 63-66 | 1 & 2 |
| X | US 4387417 PLEMMONS see fig 1 | 1 & 2 |

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.
& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.